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Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1967



C.H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge.

October, 1968.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting my twentieth Annual Report to the Council. As in previous years the report has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health and applies to the period 1st January to 31st December, 1967.

1967 was from the health point of view an uneventful year. The basic statistics were much in line with those of previous years and there is little comment required about notifiable disease. On the other hand the supervision of the environment especially in relation to clean food has been well maintained.

I would like to express my appreciation of the close co-operation I have had from both members and officers.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of District ...	1112 acres	Population ...	... 6540
No. of inhabited houses ...	2467	Product of Penny Rate ...	£831

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
C.H. IMRIE. T.D., C.H.S.,
M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Additional Public Health
Inspector:
D.W. SNOWDEN, F.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Engineer & Surveyor:
JOHN SMITH, A.M.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E.

Population. For a number of years the population of Woodbridge has been increasing by a somewhat modest amount each year. This increase has, however, been fairly regular so that in the past 10 years the size of the population has grown by nearly a thousand persons. The Registrar General's mid-year population estimate for 1967 was 6,540 persons.

Live Births in 1967 numbered 105 which is very similar to the figure for the previous year.

Still Births totalled 2 which is about the average over the past 10 years.

Deaths. Although slightly above the average for 10 years, were within the limits anticipated. There were 91 deaths registered.

Infantile Deaths. In only two cases was the death of a child under the age of 1 year reported.

Causes of Death. There were 52 male and 39 female deaths reported. The most prevalent causes were those associated with the diseases of the heart and circulation, coronary disease being prominent in the males. Malignant disease was next in frequency and the most frequent site in the males was the lung and bronchus while in females it was the breast.

There were no deaths from infectious diseases or motor vehicle accidents or in association with pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Notifiable disease was confined mainly to measles which accounted for 55 out of 63 cases. The remainder being pneumonia 3, dysentery 2, whooping cough 2 and scarlet fever 1.

It is to be hoped that future years will show a marked decrease in cases of measles as by the end of 1967 the immunisation of children against this complaint was starting in the area.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following particulars relating to immunisation which has been carried out in Woodbridge:-

	<u>Primary</u> <u>Course</u>	<u>Booster Dose</u> <u>or</u> <u>Revaccination</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/Polio	--	--
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	72	24
Diphtheria/Pertussis	--	--
Diphtheria/Tetanus	1	67
Diphtheria	--	--
Pertussis	--	--
Tetanus	9	22
Salk Poliomyelitis	4	6
Sabin Poliomyelitis	72	95
Smallpox	67	20

With regard to Tuberculosis the year started and finished with twelve cases on the register, one being removed and one added. This gives a figure of approximately two per thousand of the population which is rather better than many neighbouring districts.

Water Supply. The Council no longer has responsibility for the water supply of the town since it was taken over by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking, but we in the Public Health field are still very much interested in the quantity and quality of the water which we receive. I would refer to the Public Health Inspector's report for further details regarding this matter.

Refuse and Sewage Disposal. In general the collection, removal and disposal of household refuse has followed the pattern of previous years and seems to be quite adequate, the extension of this service to business premises has proved satisfactory.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Creek Farm have maintained the required standard of treatment and have dealt with the sewage without showing signs of overloading. The drainage system in the town has on the whole given little cause for worry, although many lengths of drain are very old. Wherever faults were found they were rectified or if necessary replaced.

In concluding I would like to refer to the report furnished by Mr. Snowden, the Public Health Inspector, which I append to this report. This shows in some detail the working of the Department.

Summary of Vital Statistics1958 to 1967

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Estimated Population	5680	5950	6190	6020	6070	6100	6260	6290	6360	6540
Birth Rate	17.9 (102)	15.4 (92)	16.18 (100)	12.8 (77)	14.6 (89)	12.95 (79)	16.93 (106)	14.14 (89)	17.4 (111)	16.1 (105)
Still Birth Rate	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	10.0 (1)	nil	21.9 (2)	48.2 (4)	9.43 (1)	21.9 (2)	34.7 (4)	18.6 (2)
Death Rate	10.5 (62)	12.6 (75)	11.9 (74)	12.45 (75)	13.8 (84)	15.57 (95)	12.6 (79)	11.4 (72)	11.0 (70)	13.9 (91)
Infantile Death Rate	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	50.0 (5)	12.9 (1)	11.2 (1)	37.9 (3)	9.34 (1)	33.7 (3)	27.02 (3)	19.0 (2)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Rate for Comparison</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales</u>
<u>Live Births</u>						
Legitimate	43	54	105	16.1	17.5	17.2
Illegitimate	5	3				
<u>Still Births</u>						
Legitimate	1	-	2	*19.0	-	14.7
Illegitimate	-	1				
<u>Deaths all Ages</u>						
	52	39	91	13.9	14.3	11.2
<u>Deaths under 1 year of age</u>						
	2	-	2	*19.0	-	18.3

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

<u>Code</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1967</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1966</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	-	7	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	6	18	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	5	19	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	1	3	4	9
21. Other circulatory disease	2	7	9	4
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	3	4	2
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3	-
25. Other disease of respiratory system	-	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	2
34. All other accidents	1	1	2	-
35. Suicide	-	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
	<u>52</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>70</u>

Infectious DiseaseNotifications Received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>under</u> <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>to</u> <u>2</u>	<u>3</u> <u>to</u> <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <u>to</u> <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <u>to</u> <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> <u>to</u> <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <u>to</u> <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> <u>to</u> <u>64</u>	<u>65</u> <u>&</u> <u>over</u>	<u>age</u> <u>unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	9	10	32	-	-	1	-	-	1	55
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
											<u>63</u>

Monthly Notifications

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jne</u>	<u>Jly</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	4	2	2	1	2	26	6	12	-	-	55
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register <u>1st January, 1967</u>	6	3	-	3	12
Number of cases notified <u>during the year</u>	1	-	-	-	1
Number restored to <u>Register</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise <u>than by Notification</u>	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases removed <u>from Register</u>	1	-	-	1	2
Number remaining on Register <u>at 31st December, 1967</u>	7	3	-	2	12

Details of Cases added to Register

1 - Inward Transfer
1 - New Case

Details of Cases removed from Register

2 - Recovered

HOUSING

Statistics for 1967

Number of inhabited houses including 461 Council-owned dwellings according to the rate books at 19th February, 1968.	2467
Average number of persons per house	2.65
Number of houses completed by the Council during the year	Nil
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year	79
Total of post-war Council houses completed to 31.12.67.	401
Number of Improvement Grant applications approved in 1967:	
a) Discretionary	
1) Owner-occupied properties	- 1
2) Tenanted properties	Nil
b) Standard	
1) Owner-occupied properties	- 14
2) Tenanted properties	- 4
	<hr/>
<u>Total</u>	19

General Inspection

a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	124
b) Number found to be unsatisfactory in some respect	43
c) Number occupied in respect of which demolition or clearance orders had been made	Nil

Housing Repairs Instigated

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	39
Number of Scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	1

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
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Individually Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made during 1967	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders made previously	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	2
No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Secs. 16 & 18 Housing Act, 1957)	1
No. of informal undertakings not to re-let accepted	1
No. of families re-housed from unfit houses	2

House Improvement Grants

Details of applications received and approved during 1967 are given in the Statistical section of this report. However, it may be of interest to note brief details of improvements which were completed during the year, as follows:-

Standard Grants

Twenty-eight dwellings, which comprised sixteen owner-occupied and twelve tenanted premises were provided with the following total number of amenities:-

- 26 fixed baths or showers, in a bathroom.
- 26 wash hand basins.
- 28 hot water systems.
- 27 internal water closets.
- 22 ventilated food stores.

The average Grant per house was approximately £211.

Discretionary Grants

Five dwellings were improved with the aid of this more comprehensive type of Grant, comprising one owner-occupied and four tenanted premises.

The average Grant per separate unit of accommodation provided was approximately £370.

Compulsory Improvement

No formal action was requested by occupants under the Housing Act, 1964, which contains measures to compel owners to improve rented houses built before 1945, subject to certain conditions.

It is still apparent that many occupiers of such rented property are unaware of their right to make representations to the local authority in this respect. It would seem there is a case here for further publicity in this matter.

Pail Closet Conversions

The number of pail closet conversions to water-borne sanitation during 1967 is estimated to be 81, which included nearly that number of new connections being made to the town's sewerage system.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No formal action was found necessary in respect of any premises let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.

Public Health Conditions

- (i) Seventy-one public health complaints were received from members of the public during the year including such items as choked and defective drainage; suspected dangerous structures; offensive smells; overflowing water cisterns; leaking eavesgutters and rainwater pipes; noise; regarding the keeping of animals; accumulation of refuse etc., as well as the many notifications of wasps, ants, flies, rats and mice.

The appropriate action was taken in each case.

- (ii) Eleven complaints, primarily concerning housing conditions, were again received, and alleged such defects as dampness, outstanding repairs and overcrowding. All such defects were investigated and steps taken to improve conditions wherever possible. Many of this type of complaint came from persons currently occupying a place on the Housing List.
- (iii) Fifty-one informal notices were served throughout the year to abate nuisance or secure essential repairs. Forty-two notices were complied with during the year.
- (iv) In no case was Statutory action found necessary to abate a nuisance.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated during:-

		<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
a)	Dwelling houses	- 97	76
b)	Other premises	- 30	6
Total No. of treatments carried out		- 282	249

Eradication of Vermin

		<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Premises disinfested	-	1	1
Wasps nests destroyed	-	195	90

Water Supply

- (i) Twenty samples of drinking water were taken from various pumps and also from mains supplies for bacteriological examination during the year. The mains supply was always completely satisfactory. The small number of wells which must still be used for domestic purposes varied in purity throughout the year, but never constituted a serious risk to health.
- (ii) Two samples were taken to determine nitrate levels and were found to be satisfactory.
- (iii) One full chemical analysis was carried out on mains water during the year and the Analyst's report on its quality was very satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is sold to the public is 83.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Departmental Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish & Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Green Grocers, Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Grocers (including small general stores)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Licensed Premises (Hotels, public houses, off licences)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Restaurants, cafes and snack bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Supermarkets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following items were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned, under the 'voluntary surrender' procedure:-

1 - 5 lb. tin Cream Cheese	6 - 12 oz tins Beef and Pork
1 cwt. 46 lb. 5 oz. Frozen Foods	Luncheon Meat
in 374 lots	1 - 8 oz. tin Tomatoes
23 - 1 lb. tins Pork	3 - 1 lb. 3½ oz. tins
5 - 6 lb. tins Corned Beef	Strawberries
2 lb. Frankfurters.	1 - 15 oz. tin Apricot Halves
2 lb. Paris Causages	1 - 15½ oz. tin Chicken Soup
4 - 4½ lb. Sticks Garlic	2 lb. Soft Cheese in 4 lots
Sausages	3 lb. Cheshire Cheese
2 lb. Brie Cheese	2 - 11 lb. tins Pork
1 - 7 lb. case Haddock Cutlets	1 - 12 lb. 14 oz. tin Ham
6 - 1 lb. 13 oz. tins Peach Slices	2 - 10 lb. tins Lambs Livers

A total of fifteen Certificates were issued to the seven food businesses who voluntarily surrendered the above food for destruction.

Note: The above amount is very small in comparison with the total quantity of food sold in Woodbridge.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Of those nineteen food premises and mobile foodshops receiving an inspection during the year, four had one or more items needing attention, which resulted in informal notices being served on those persons responsible.

Three such premises and vehicles were rendered satisfactory by the end of the year.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

General

There was evidence of an increased turnover in many of the food shops during the year, and further installations of refrigerated displays were noted, a welcome trend, in respect of the storage of meat products.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Four cases were reported and investigated. Steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of the complaints, which comprised a pin in a loaf of bread; dirt in a milk bottle; a nail in a jam tart and a fly in a special cake.

Unsound Food

Three complaints were also received which alleged food was sold in an unsound condition. Two cases were substantiated and taken up with the shopkeepers concerned.

Ice Cream

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream is 24, an increase of one during the year.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages; or the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

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Type	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories without Power	2	-	-	-
Factories with Power	33	11	3	1
TOTALS	35	11	3	1

Outworkers on Register - Two; an increase of one during the year. No unsatisfactory conditions were noted.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was considered necessary during 1966.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963Registration and General Inspections:

CLASS of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at 31.12.67.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
OFFICES	4	43	Nil
RETAIL SHOPS	10	76	2
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	Nil	3	Nil
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC; CANTEENS	Nil	12	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	Nil	3	Nil
TOTALS	14	137	2

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act = 53.

Note: "Registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under section 49 of the Act has been received by the local authority ... and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

"General inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purposes of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace:

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed		
	1965	1966	1967
OFFICES	263	269	280
RETAIL SHOPS	311	321	328
WHOLESALE DEPARTMENTS; WAREHOUSES	41	42	21
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	42	42	42
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	9	9	9
TOTAL	666	683	680
TOTAL MALES	309	313	302
" FEMALES	357	370	378

Reported Accidents

One accident was notified during the year and injuries sustained were not of a serious nature. It occurred in retail shop premises. Informal advice to the employers resulted in hand-rails being provided on a small staircase, so as to reduce the risk of a similar accident.
